(b) if so, the recommendations made by the Committee and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) No Committee of Secretaries under Cabinet Secretary has been formed specially to advise about measures for removing bottle-necks in the way of rapid growth of tourist traffic to India. However, measures are being taken by Government in the Ministry of Tourism from time to time to help remove bottle necks in consultation with other Ministries.

National waterways

1967. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:
SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to declare a number of rivers and waterways as national waterways;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps have been taken in pursuance thereof so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The following waterways have been identified for consideration to be declared as National Waterways:—

(i) Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly river system;
(ii) Brahmaputra;
(iii) Sunderbans;
(iv) West Coast Canal;
(v) Godavari;
(vi) Krishna;
(vii) Mandovi and the Zuari river and the Cumberjua Canal in Goa;
(viii) Narmada;
(ix) Mahanadi;
(x) Tapi.

(c) The Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly river system has already been declared as a National Waterway. Hydrographic surveys and techno-economic studies are prerequisites before a waterway is considered for National Waterway. In the Sunderbans the hydrographic surveys have been completed and in the Brahmaputra, the West Coast Canal and the Godavari these are in progress and are expected to be completed by 1989, 1987 and 1988 respectively.

As regards techno-economic studies these have been completed on the Brahmaputra and partly on the Narmada. These studies are in progress on the West Coast Canal, the Godavari and the Sunderbans and are expected to be completed by 1987, February and March, 1988 respectively.

Major port at Patna

1968. SHRI SHEO KUMAR MISHRA:
DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Inland Waterway Authority of India's expert group has carried out a study of feasibility of Patna as a major Port; if so, the details thereof; and

(b) what is the progress of navigation project on Patna-Allahabad and Patna-Haldia stretches?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) There has been no expert group set up by IWAI to study the feasibility of Patna as Major Port. The IWAI has appointed a Consultant to prepare a detailed Project Report for an IWT terminal at Patna.

(b) The Haldia-Allahabad stretch of the river Ganga is being developed for navigation, in three stretches namely Haldia-Farakka, Farakka-Patna and Patna-Allahabad.

In so far as the Haldia-Farakka stretch is concerned, a scheme costing Rs. 189.50 lakhs for river conservancy work, aids to navigation, terminal facilities, etc. is under